

Message Text

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73-60

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DODE-00 OMB-01 EUR-10 RSR-01

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R 161120 Z JUN 73 M

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3302

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10832

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP 16 JUNE 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA DATED JUNE 16
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0205

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 16 JUNE 1973

1. MR 3 G-2 REPORTS THAT DURING 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 16,
THERE WERE 24 " ENEMY- INITIATED" INCIDENTS. OF THESE 15 WERE IN
FOUR- HOUR PERIOD BEFORE " REAL CEASE- FIRE" WENT INTO EFFECT,
AND ONLY NINE IN 20- HOUR PERIOD THEREAFTER. OF 24 INCIDENTS,
11 WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND 13 GROUND CONTACTS. MOST SIGNIFICANT
INCIDENT DURING THE PERIOD WERE GROUND CONTACTS IN BINH DUONG,
HAU NGHIA, AND BIEN HOA. AT 1115 JUNE 15 AN UNKNOWN SIZE
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COMMUNIST FORCE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ATTACKED ELEMENT OF 9 TH REGIMENT OF ARVN 5 TH DIVISION 10 KM SW OF BEN CAT DISTRICT TOWN, KILLING TWO ARVN AND WOUNDING TWO WHILE LOSING TWO COMMUNISTS KILLED. COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY ATTACKED ANOTHER ELEMENT OF 9 TH REGIMENT 10 KMS SW OF PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN (NO DOUBT ON INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1- A), RESULTING IN 1 ARVN KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED, WHILE COMMUNIST CASUALTIES UNKNOWN. IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE 337 TH RF COMPANY WAS ATTACKED BY UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE 7 KM NW OF DUC HUE DISTRICT TOWN , RESULTING IN FOUR COMMUNISTS KILLED, AND NO ARVN CASUALTIES. AT 0700 HOURS 15 JUNE A COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED THE 315 TH RF COMPANY 4 KMS EAST OF NHON TRACH DISTRICT TOWN, BIEN HOA PROVINCE. ONE RF WAS KILLED AND 5 WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK. NO COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. TOTAL CASUALTIES REPORTED DURING THE PERIOD WERE 6 GVN KILLED, 18 WOUNDED, 13 VC/ NVA KILLED, CIVILIAN CASUALTIES WERE 1 KILLED AND 2 WOUNDED.

2. CONSUL IN BA RIA REPORTS THIS MORNING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW GROUND CONTACTS AND SHELLINGS IN THAT PROVINCE, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO A SPILLOVER OF PREVIOUS DAY' S CONTACTS. TL 44 BETWEEN LONG HAI AND PHUOC HAI IS CLEARED OF COMMUNISTS, BUT GVN FORCES HAVE NOT YET SWEEPED AWAY THE MINES ON THE ROAD. COMMUNIST LOCAL FORCE COMPANY IS STILL THOUGHT TO BE IN LONG PHUOC AREA. NO SPECIFIC NEWS ON NUI DAT AREA WHICH PROVINCE CHIEF WAS PLANNING TO CLEAR, EXCEPT THAT ONE OF THE REPORTED CONTACTS WAS THERE. BINH TUY AND LONG KHANH REPORTED QUIET.

3. PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD ARRO ON TELEPHONE MORNING JUNE 16 THAT HIS PROVINCE IS QUIET.

4. IN CONVERSATION AFTERNOON JUNE 15 WITH CONSULS, LONG KHANH PROVINCE CHIEF COL. MACH VAN TRUONG DISCUSSED ISSUE OF " ZONES OF CONTROL". HE CONCEDED COMMUNISTS ARE PRESENT IN MANY AREAS OF HIS PROVINCE, BUT FLEETING PRESENCE OF A FEW GUERRILLAS OR CADRE DOES NOT MEAN CONTROL. CONTROL MUST BE DEMONSTRATED BY LONG- TERM MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENCE. HE INSISTED HE HAD NOT PREPARED ANY MAPS FOR TPJMC OR MR 3 ON ZONES OF CONTROL IN LONG KHANH, NOR HAD HE RECEIVED ANY FROM THESE SOURCES. COL. TRUONG DID NOT SEEM TO RESIST CONCEPT OF ZONES OF CONTROL, AS OTHER GVN OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY HAVE DONE; HE CONCEDED THAT

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ALINEATION WOULD PROBABLY REDUCE INADVERTENT CLASHES BETWEEN OPPOSING PATROLS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NOT COMPLETELY END CLASHES BECAUSE THERE WOULD INEVITABLY STILL BE SOME SETTLING OF SCORES BETWEEN, SAY, A VILLAGE GUERRILLA AND A PF SOLDIER WHOSE BROTHER HE HAD KILLED.

5. WITH REGARD TO QUESTION OF CONTACTS BETWEEN OPPOSING FIELD COMMANDERS, COL. TRUONG REITERATED INFORMATION WE HAD FROM MR 3 THAT GVN COMMANDERS ARE NOT TO INITIATE CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISTS, OR TO ENTER INTO THEM WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OF HIGHER HEADQUARTERS. HE THOUGHT SUCH CONTACTS WOULD BE ARRANGED BY AGREEMENT IN TPJMC, FOLLOWED BY ORDERS DOWN RESPECTIVE CHAINS OF COMMAND. HE SAID HE AND HIS COMMANDERS HAD NOT YET HEARD FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMUNIST COMMANDERS. FROM ANOTHER SOURCE CONSUL LEARNED THAT ON ABOUT JUNE 7, ONE OF LONG KHANH' S DISTRICT CHIEFS WAS CONTACTED BY HIS COMMUNIST COUNTERPART WITH VIEW TO ARRANGING MEASURES TO AVOID CONTACT. DISTRICT CHIEF' S RESPONSE, NEXT DAY, WAS TO LAUNCH DISTRICT- WIDE OPERATION AGAINST COMMUNISTS.

6. ICCS V CANDEL TOLD CONSUL EVENING JUNE 15 THAT COMMUNIQUE HAS BROKEN LOOSE THE LOGJAM OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEDEVILED THIS REGION. HELICOPTER FLIGHTS TO TEAM SITE IN AN LOC WILL BEGIN JUNE 17 AND EVERY TWO DAYS THEREAFTER. FINAL RECONNAISSANCE OF XA MAT TEAMSITE IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 18, AND TEAM EXPECTS TO MOVE IN ABOUT JUNE 22. THIS TENDS TO SUGGEST THAT PRG HAVE GIVEN SECURITY GUARANTEES REQUIRED BY COMMUNIQUE.

7. CANDEL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT INDONESIANS ARE STILL UNDER OLD ORDERS TO WITHDRAW FROM AN LOC BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS THERE, ORDERS NOT CARRIED OUT BECAUSE OF LACK OF LIAISON FLIGHTS. HE SPECULATED THAT INDODEL MIGHT WITHDRAW TEAM AT LEAST FOR A FEW DAYS.

8. EVERYONE HAS BEEN TELLING CANADIANS THEY THINK THEY NOW WILL REMAIN IN ICCS. POLGARIANS SAY THEY ALWAYS REGARDED WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT AS PRESSURE TACTIC WHICH HAS NOW PRODUCED STRONGER GUARANTEES FOR ICCS ABILITY TO DO ITS JOB. LONG AN PROVINCE CHIEF COL. LE VAN NAM, PRESENTING CANDEL A PLAQUE
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ON HIS IMPENDING DEPARTURE JUNE 15, PREDICTED HE WOULD STAY. HOWEVER, CANADIANS THEMSELVES CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THEIR GOVERNMENT' S DECISION IS IRREVOCABLE.

9. ACCORDING TO LATE REPORT FROM BING DUONG ARRO, HIGHWAY 1 A IS NOW OPENED TO VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN TRAFFIC MOVING BETWEEN PHU GIAO AND PHU CUONG. ALL OTHER ROADS IN THE PROVINCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HIGHWAY 13 ABOVE LAI KHE, WERE REPORTED OPEN TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC AS WELL. ARRO REPORTED PASSING ONE OF THE MOST RESTFUL NIGHTS IN HIS LONG SERVICE IN VIET NAM. NEARBY ARVN ARTILLERY WAS SILENT, THE VC/ NVA WERE, AT LEAST, TEMPORARILY INACTIVE AND NOTHING UNTOWARD OCCURRED TO DISTURB THE MYSTIC CALM ALONG THE SAIGON RIVER.
WALKINSHAW

UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON10832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730621/aaaajdkh.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION E
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980210
Subject: DAILY MR 3 SITREP 16 JUNE 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO JEC PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005